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OPENING GAME ISSUE

**Preview Begins
On Page 8**



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BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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A newspaper devoted exclusively
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL

Vol. 11, No. 6 September 8, 1986

On the cover...

TODD BELL works out at Lake Forest last week after settling his contract dispute. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Bring On Regular Season

The big news this week is the obvious — the preseason is over and it's time to get on with the regular season.

It's been a long beginning this year, going all the way back to the London trip. And I'm sure the players are more than happy to get on with the regular season.

The extra preseason game the Bears played made this exhibition season longer than usual. And playing that extra game in London made it worse. I don't think the Bears needed that extra game as much as other teams in the league did, but what are you going to do?

But it's all over with, and that's the key. Exhibitions don't mean anything. The players were practicing, that's all. And the Bears managed a 4-1 record in spite of themselves.

Part of what coaches do in the preseason is try to get other teams to prepare for things you won't use. That way, the opponents waste a lot of practice time on something they really don't need to prepare for.

That makes it even more difficult to judge a team in the preseason. And for most of the exhibition games the Bears were using just a straight defense, something they won't do in the regular season. Remember how the Bear defense performed during last year's exhibition season? I don't think you have to worry about it. The defense will be just fine.

Sure, the defense didn't force that many turnovers in

the preseason and there wasn't much of a pass rush. But all that will change once the season starts. The defense will turn loose with the ferociousness that led the Bears to the Super Bowl last year.

Now the real stuff begins, and the Bears can't take the Cleveland Browns lightly on Sunday. Cleveland will want to get started on the winning track, and they'll be ready to go after the Bears.

Chicago won't be able to sit back on Browns' quarterback Bernie Kosar. The Bears have to put pressure on him, and that'll be a key to the game. Kosar doesn't have that many great moves, so he won't be able to escape a good Bears rush.

The pressure will be on the Bears to win every game this year, and a lot of that pressure will come from the fans. They'll want Chicago to play great in every game, not just good. They want more than winning.

But it's not going to be that way. Every team in the league is gunning for the Bears, and if they're not prepared for that before each game, the Bears will have some tough games this year.

Don't worry about how the Bears performed in their last two games. You'll see them settle down and get back to what's worked in the past. And if they're ready to play each week, they'll be tough to beat.



RUNNING BACK CARL BYRUM of the Bills is gang tackled by the Bear defense in Chicago's 31-17 win Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Bears Don't Look Like World Beaters In ND

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

The game was supposed to be a showcase for the return of quarterbacks Jim McMahon of Chicago and Jim Kelly of Buffalo.

Instead, it was a game that Bears coach Mike Ditka probably won't want to see the films from.

The Bears didn't look good in just about every aspect of the game, but they still managed to come up with a few good drives and some big plays to defeat the Buffalo Bills at Notre Dame Saturday, 31-17.

Despite the win, the Bears didn't look that good in their final exhibition game of the year. The offense sputtered in the first quarter, the defense gave up 440 yards to the Bills and the special teams unit almost allowed a touchdown on the opening kickoff.

BROWNS WILL LAUGH AT GAME FILMS

"We have a long way to go," Ditka said. "The Browns will be laughing at everything. We couldn't move anyone and we couldn't stop anybody. There's no excuse for it. We all had pads on. I thought we all dressed the same."

Maybe they did, but it was the Bills who were doing all the hitting early in the game.

The return of McMahon to the starting lineup didn't work miracles with the offense in the first quarter. The Bears failed to record a first down in the quarter and only controlled the ball for 3:35. McMahon also failed to connect on three passes in the period.

Buffalo, meanwhile, was running all over the field from the beginning. The Bills' Walter Broughton took the opening kickoff 57 yards to the Bears' 34-yard line. Two plays later, Bills quarterback Frank Reich began picking on the Bears' Mike Richardson, completing a 32-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Butler. The extra-point conversion made it 7-0 only 2:36 into the game.

BILLS PICK ON RICHARDSON EARLY

After three running plays and a punt by Chicago, Buffalo started a 90-yard scoring drive on its own 10-yard line. Reich completed passes of 11, 12 and 25-yards on Richardson's side to set up a seven-yard touchdown run by Robb Riddick.

Buffalo controlled the ball for 7:12 on 14 plays while taking a 14-0 lead in the first quarter.

Chicago had two more possessions in the quarter, punting after three plays on each one. The Bears failed to con-

vert on third down three times in the quarter.

"We've got to give the quarterback help," Ditka said. "We have a false feeling around here that when the quarterback walks on the field that everyone falls down. You have to knock people down."

McMahon and Calvin Thomas got the Bear offense moving in the second quarter. Chicago took over possession on its own 23-yard line with 12:20 left in the half after Buffalo punted. Thomas gained nine yards on the first two plays of the drive, then after failing to gain yardage on third and one Thomas picked up three yards on fourth down for the Bears' first first down of the game.

"We had to try to make a first down," Ditka said of the fourth down gamble. "We hadn't made one yet."

The Bears got another first down after McMahon completed a nine-yard pass to Payton and a 20-yard pass over the middle to Dennis Gentry.

Gentry managed to hang on to the pass after getting hit hard while bobbling the ball before gaining control for the catch.

After Payton gained 18-yards on the ground to bring the ball to the Bills' nine-yard line, McMahon threw an incomplete pass and scrambled for two yards on the next play to bring the ball to the seven-yard line.

On third and goal, Payton ran around the left side for the score with 6:43 left in the half.

"Jim handled himself well," Ditka said. "I thought he had great command of himself out there. He was sharp. He threw some real good passes."

Kelly entered the game for the Bills on their next possession. But Buffalo was forced to punt after Kelly completed a five-yard pass to the Bills' 27-yard line on third and six.

THOMAS GETS BEARS MOVING

Chicago took over on its own 34-yard line, and Thomas started the Bears' next scoring drive with a 35-yard pass reception from McMahon. Thomas literally ran over two Bills defenders to gain most of the yardage.

"They blitzed two people up the middle and left him open," Ditka said. "And, of course, he ran hard with the ball. He does a good job running with the ball."

"When you're getting your butt kicked 14-0 you have to do something," Thomas said. "I didn't want them to tackle me, that's all. I turned around and caught the ball and put my head down."

And he put a few Bills down on the ground in the

Continued Page 14



JIM McMAHON rolls out and finds Calvin Thomas for a touchdown pass in the Bears' 31-17 win over Buffalo Saturday at Notre Dame. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



CALVIN THOMAS ran over two Bills during this 34-yard reception at Notre Dame Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Williams Among Bear Cuts

The Bears cut five players Monday, including two 1986 draft choices, to reach the 45-man season roster limit.

Cut from the team were 1986 third-round draft choice wide receiver David Williams, eighth-round draft choice defensive back Maurice Douglass, center Tom Andrews, tight end Pat Dunsmore and defensive end Tyrone Keys.

"I'm not happy we had to cut Dave Williams, Pat or Tom Andrews," Bears coach Mike Ditka said. "They were draft picks for us and solid football players. Sometimes it happens."

Ditka said what hurt Williams was a lack of effort at times and the failure to run the right pattern all the time.

"It was hard for me because I really had high hopes for David," Ditka said. "I don't think he worked at it as hard"

Continued Page 14

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Bears-Bills Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago	0	21	0	10	—	31
Buffalo	14	0	3	0	—	17

Buffalo, 1, 30-yd. pass Reich to Butler (Norwood kick) (0-7)
 Buffalo, 1, 7-yd. run Riddick (Norwood kick) (0-14)
 Chicago, 2, 7-yd. run Payton (Butler kick) (7-14)
 Chicago, 2, 1-yd. run Payton (Butler kick) (14-14)
 Chicago, 2, 7-yd. pass McMahon to Thomas (Butler kick) (21-14)
 Buffalo, 3, FG Norwood 25-yds. (21-17)
 Chicago, 4, FG Butler 46-yds. (24-17)
 Chicago, 4, 55-yd. pass Tomczak to Barnes (Butler kick) (31-17)
 Weather: Clear, temperature 70, wind and direction southeast 6 mph
 Attendance 50,196, time 3:27

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Bills
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	18	25
By Rushing	5	12
By Passing	9	10
By Penalty	4	3
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	2-9	8-18
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1	1-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	319	440
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	53	72
Av. Gain per Off. Play	6.0	6.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	78	205
Total Rushing Plays	24	43
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.3	4.8
NET YARDS PASSING	241	235
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	0	0
Gross Yds. Passing	241	235
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	29-15-1	29-14-0
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	8.3	8.1
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-50.0	5-45.6
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	41	20
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	3-41	2-17
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-79	6-122
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	0-0	1-3
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	7-34	10-119
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-2	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	4	2
Rushing	2	1
Passing	2	1
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	4-4	2-2
FG MADE — ATT.	1-1	1-3
TIME OF POSSESSION	23:24	36:36

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Payton	6	37	6.1	18	2
Thomas	6	15	2.5	7	0
Suhey	4	12	3.0	4	0
Anderson	2	7	3.5	4	0
Sanders	4	5	1.2	5	0
McMahon	1	2	2.0	2	0
Perry	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Tomczak	16	8	148	0	1	55	1
McMahon	12	6	82	0	1	35	0
Fuller	1	1	11	0	0	11	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Suhey	5	50	21	0
Thomas	3	46	35	1
Barnes	1	55	55	1
Williams	1	32	32	0
Gentry	1	20	20	0
Gault	1	11	11	0
Moorehead	1	11	11	0
Payton	1	9	9	0
Wrightman	1	7	7	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
None				

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Buford	4	200	50.0	0	3	58

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Barnes	3	1	41	18	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gentry	3	53	22	0
Anderson	1	26	26	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.
Suhey	1	0	0
Gayle	0	0	0
Perry	1	0	0

Buffalo Bills

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Riddick	18	94	5.2	26	1
Harmon	9	33	3.6	9	0
Kelly	3	32	10.6	14	0
Moore	6	20	3.3	7	0
Byrum	4	20	5.0	15	0
Broughton	1	4	4.0	4	0
Wilkins	1	3	3.0	3	0
Marve	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Reich	14	7	156	0	1	46	0
Kelly	9	5	60	0	0	22	0
McClure	6	2	19	0	0	14	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Butler	4	103	46	1
Reed	3	54	25	0
Broughton	2	30	19	0
Rolle	2	27	22	0
Harmon	2	7	5	0
Richardson	1	14	14	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Freeman	1	3	3	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Kidd	5	228	45.6	1	4	57

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Broughton	2	0	17	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Broughton	2	78	57	0
Teal	1	18	18	0
Harmon	1	19	19	0
Moore	1	7	7	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.
Romes	0	0	0
Hill	0	0	0
Broughton	1	0	0



WIDE RECEIVER WILLIE GAULT listens for the play call in the Bears' final exhibition game of the year Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (Unofficial)

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	5	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bell	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fencik	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	6	0	0	0	0	2	0
Singletary	6	3	0	0	0	1	0
Morrissey	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rains	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Waechter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Freeman	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Romes	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Burroughs	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Bellinger	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Kelso	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bayless	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frazier	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Furjanic	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marve	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Haslett	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Talley	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
David	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Smerlas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	2	0
Prater	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
McNanie	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gamer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilkins	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rolle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Baschnagel Wouldn't Walk Away

The Bears are looking forward to the season, which is Sunday against Cleveland.

The one-game-at-a-time Bears are trying hard to keep from looking backward or forward. There's too much to do between Super Bowls to think about either the last one or the next one.

They are looking ahead, but not too far ahead. The next play is far enough. The Browns are all the season that matters.



By
Don
Pierson

Although no one favors the Bears to win all their games, they could well be favored to win every single one of them. The gamblers take them one at a time, too. They know that trying to win them all at once ups the odds too much.

The Bears will proceed without Brian Baschnagel, which only reinforces evidence that coach Mike Ditka is not as nostalgic as he sometimes sounds.

Baschnagel was around only in spirit last year. His spirit was an important contribution for 10 years. He caught only 11 passes since 1982, yet Ditka was more reluctant to let him go than he was to see, say, Buddy Ryan leave.

"A class person. Good for football," said Ditka.

That Baschnagel was reluctant to leave should provide inspiration to those who stayed. At 32, Basch knew his best days were behind him. He was as healthy as he had been in years and could have retired from the game with

a Super Bowl ring and the memory of playing 10 more years than a lot of experts expected.

Yet he wanted to hang on.

Baschnagel was a Rhodes Scholar candidate at Ohio State. During off seasons, he worked in a variety of professions that would have satisfied most men emotionally and financially.

Yet he wanted one more fling.

Ditka offered to let Baschnagel retire.

"I'm sure it was to let me save face," said Baschnagel. "But I said I'd gone this far without retiring. He was going to have to kick me out. I enjoy it too much."

Baschnagel long ago had erased the inclination to quit from his list of alternatives.

"I know I have limitations as a football player. Everybody does. You do your best," he said. "There are a lot of reasons you want to stick around. Money is just a small part of it. I've enjoyed the game and it's hard to just hang up your shoes. You want to always give it that last shot. You want to hang on as long as you can. It's the only reason I've been around 10 years. I've dedicated myself toward something I really enjoyed."

Players complain by nature about everything from the free lunch line to the bruises that often even keep them off the dance floor. Some of the gripes are legitimate. Almost all of them are forgotten. Ask any player if he would endure all the indignities again and you won't wait long for a positive answer.

The foxhole intensity of football appeals to the emotions in ways that only a player can feel and fully understand.

Not even the constant specter of injury can dim the enthusiasm. Indeed, the constant specter of injury may be one of the game's strongest appeals.

Baschnagel didn't get to play a down in 1985. Ditka had the opportunity to activate him twice before the Super Bowl, once when James Maness was deactivated and once when Brad Anderson was deactivated. Each time, Ditka passed him up, providing handwriting on the wall in huge black letters.

Baschnagel was not fazed.

"I think I was hoping I could play in the Super Bowl, but there's no void. There are lots of rewards. Maybe I didn't get the chance to play on the field, and I probably will regret that in time, but I was still a part of the organi-

Continued Next Page



BRIAN BASCHNAGEL'S last touchdown catch as a Bear came against Pittsburgh this year before he was cut. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Baschnagel

Continued From Page 5

zation and part of the growing up of this football team. They can't take that away from me. I still felt I was there emotionally and physically. Financially, I certainly was," he said.

In the off season, Baschnagel didn't work; he worked out.

"He dedicated his whole self to one more year and that's why it's hard to let go," said Ditka. "He feels in as good a shape physically as he has in the last four years. He has no nagging injuries."

All the more reason to hang it up, an outsider might think.

For years, Walter Payton has stated one of his primary goals is to leave the game on his own two feet, health intact. Don't believe it.

"We want to leave on our own terms, but it's such a good life, you can never do it," said Gary Fencik.

Cliff Thrift, cut the same day as Baschnagel, smiled at his own thought: "I'd rather limp away from the game."

To ask Baschnagel to retire was to ask him to reject the last 10 years of his life.

"No matter how much you know the game's over for you, you have a lot of memories over 10 years, a lot of

camaraderie," said Ditka. "Now, it's all gone. He'll make the adjustment very well because he's a winner. A lot don't make that adjustment. The camaraderie is not here, so it's at a corner tavern or somewhere else."

Baschnagel left with the assurance of both Ditka and his own mind that he could still play.

Ditka was so impressed by Baschnagel's early training camp that he said no other receiver was playing better.

"His performance didn't warrant him being cut," Ditka said.

Baschnagel said that knowledge will make it easier for him to leave.

"Was it worth going through training camp? If I had retired, I wouldn't have known I could go through training camp like I did. There was a lot of satisfaction in going through training camp and not missing time. I was healthy," said Baschnagel.

"Why do I enjoy it? It's got to be the emotion. The thing I'll miss most is the fellowship you gain by going through all the emotions in a football game. I have no regrets. I've given it my best.

"The thing that frightens me is I don't know if I will be able to find anything I can enjoy as much as football."

If Ditka ever runs out of pep talks this year, he should have his players remember the words and the career of Brian Baschnagel.



BEAR COACH MIKE DITKA watches closely during fourth quarter action of the Bears-Bills game Saturday at Notre Dame. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears To Turn Loose Against Browns

By Mark Friedlander

Many teams would be passing out the cigars if they went 4-1 in the preseason, but not the Bears. This team wouldn't be satisfied with a 5-0 exhibition campaign.

The way head coach Mike Ditka was talking after the Bears defeated the Buffalo Bills 31-17 at Notre Dame last Saturday, one would have thought the Bears were about to petition NFL Commissioner Pete Rozell for a few more preseason games so they could get all of the kinks out of their system.

"Either Buffalo is pretty good, or we're pretty bad," said Ditka. What irked the head coach most was how the Bills racked up yardage on the ground. Led by seldom-used running back Rob Riddick, who rushed for 94 yards on 18 carries, Buffalo racked up 205 yards on the ground. Remember, the Bears led the NFL in rush defense a year ago. Buffalo added 235 yards through the air, but the team from upstate New York still found a way to lose.

BEARS DIDN'T COME TO PLAY

In the first quarter, the Bills scored two touchdowns while the Bears were held to a whopping total of 16 yards and no first downs. It looked like it was going to be a long afternoon for the defending Super Bowl champs.

"I don't think we were ready to play early today," said Ditka. "They whipped our butts on the line of scrimmage. Our kick coverage was bad. We had bad coverage by our cornerbacks. We had no consistency at all on offense."

But the Bears woke up in the second quarter, scoring three touchdowns. Quarterback Jim McMahon showed he is ready for the regular season despite missing most of the preseason with a pulled hip flexor muscle. Running back Walter Payton proved he is still the best in the game, and William Perry showed he can do more than just endorse commercial products.

Throughout this preseason, other teams tried to pull out all the stops to beat the Bears. Not only did the Cardinals try to start World War III in order to intimidate the Bears, but they also used a flea-flicker to score the winning touchdown. On the other hand, the Bears couldn't have been more vanilla on both offense and defense throughout the summer. During the nationally televised game vs. the

Cardinals, CBS analyst John Madden couldn't stop talking about why the Bears shouldn't change their defense which made them such a big success a year ago.

NO FANCY FORMATIONS SO FAR

Apparently, nobody informed Madden about how the Bears were only using basic formations during the preseason. They virtually did no blitzing during the five exhibition games, yet still never allowed more than two touchdowns in a single game. Since when does total yardage win football games?

Just ask the Bears' offensive players how potent the defense will be this year. It's hard to forget that scrimmage at Platteville during the first week of training camp when the offense couldn't even get a first down against the defense. The defensive guys were even barking at the offensive players. Once the regular season begins, fans may not notice the difference between this year's defensive system and the defense of old.

Offensively, the Bears also held back throughout the summer games. Do you really believe the Bears would use a one-back offense for an entire game like they did against the Cardinals? When the Cleveland Browns prepare for next Sunday's regular season opener at Soldier Field, they will have no idea what the Bears are going to do. Ditka's a pretty smart guy, huh?

Probably the best way to describe the preseason is the Bears played with one hand tied behind their backs and still almost went undefeated. The 4-1 mark was the club's best in a decade. The Bears won most of these games with second and third stringers. The depth on this club is so solid that the second and third stringers are better than most club's starters.

"If we win four out of every five starts this year, we're gonna be there when it counts," says Ditka. "Thirteen wins will get us where we want to be."

Ditka is being modest when he says 13 wins will keep him satisfied. After going 15-1 in the regular season last year, Ditka would like to make it a clean sweep in the "preliminary" round this year. It's still hard to forget the blemish inflicted by the Miami Dolphins at the Orange Bowl last November.

NOT MUCH COMPETITION THIS YEAR

There is no question the Bears are still the best team in the league. In the NFC Central, there is no club which can even mount a serious challenge. With the type of schedule the Bears have this year, there is no reason why this team can't go undefeated. Who is going to beat them? Twelve of their 16 games are against AFC Central and NFC Central teams. Enough said. The other four are against the Rams, Cowboys, Falcons and Eagles. See anybody out there who can beat the Bears?

Experts around the nation keep harping on the fact it's impossible for a defending champion to repeat these days. But these critics fail to realize the Bears are still a hungry club and an improved club. The reaction of Ditka and his players throughout this training camp is a clear indication that this club isn't satisfied with only one Super Bowl victory. Not only do the Bears want to win every game, but they want to destroy every opponent in all phases of the game.

Bear fans can start making plans to be in Pasadena next January because the Bears are going to be the NFC's representative in the Super Bowl. It is possible they may hit a roadblock or two on the way, but they aren't going to fall into a ditch like past champions have.

Following is Friedlander's fearless forecast on how the division races will shape up this season:

NFC CENTRAL

1. BEARS — Who is going to defeat them? (16-0).
2. Lions — Chuck Long makes them respectable (9-7).
3. Vikings — Bud Grant is happy he left (7-9).
4. Packers — Forrest Gregg's honeymoon is over (6-10).
5. Buccaneers — This franchise should fold (2-14).

NFC EAST

1. Redskins — Jay Schroeder to the rescue (10-6).
2. Giants — They always find a way to lose close games (10-6).
3. Cowboys — One of Landry's weaker teams (9-7).
4. Cardinals — Stallings has instilled fighting spirit. (7-9).
5. Eagles — Buddy's big mouth can't win games (5-11).

NFC WEST

1. 49ers — Getting ready for Bears in playoffs (12-4).
2. Saints — Finks and Mora will turn this franchise around (9-7).
3. Rams — Dickerson can't do it all alone (8-8).
4. Falcons — Last place once again (5-11).

Continued Page 14

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Cleveland Browns Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
3	Alton Alexis	WR	5-11	182	28	1	Tulane
5	Webster Slaughter	WR	6-0	170	21	R	San Diego St.
7	Jeff Gossett	P	6-2	200	29	5	E. Illinois
9	Matt Bahr	K	5-10	175	30	8	Penn State
10	Mike Pagel	QB	6-2	200	25	5	Arizona State
12	Mike Norseth	QB	6-2	200	22	R	Kansas
18	Gary Danielson	QB	6-2	196	34	10	Purdue
19	Bernie Kosar	QB	6-5	210	22	2	Miami
22	Felix Wright	S	6-2	190	27	2	Drake
23	Mark Harper	CB	5-9	174	24	1	Alcorn State
26	Greg Allen	RB	5-11	200	23	2	Florida State
27	Al Gross	SS	6-3	195	25	4	Arizona
28	Herman Fontenot	RB/KR	6-0	206	22	2	Louisiana St.
29	Hanford Dixon	CB	5-11	186	27	6	S. Mississippi
30	Enis Jackson	CB	5-9	180	23	R	Memphis St.
31	Frank Minnifield	CB	5-9	180	26	3	Louisville
33	Curtis Dickey	RB	6-1	220	29	7	Texas A&M
34	Kevin Mack	RB	6-0	212	24	2	Clemson
37	Chris Rockins	S	6-0	195	24	3	Oklahoma St.
44	Earnest Byner	RB	5-10	215	23	3	East Carolina
48	D.D. Hoggard	CB	6-0	188	25	1	N. Carolina St.
49	Vince Osby	LB	6-0	222	25	3	Illinois
50	Tom Cousineau	LB	6-3	225	29	5	Ohio St.
51	Eddie Johnson	LB	6-1	225	27	6	Louisville
52	Nick Miller	LB	6-2	235	22	R	Arkansas
53	Anthony Griggs	LB	6-3	230	26	5	Ohio State
54	Joe Costello	LB	6-3	250	26	1	Central CN St.
55	Curtis Weathers	LB	6-5	230	29	8	Mississippi
57	Clay Matthews	LB	6-2	235	30	9	Southern Cal.
58	Scott Nicolas	LB	6-3	226	26	5	Miami
61	Mike Baab	C	6-4	270	26	5	Texas
62	George Lijla	G/C	6-4	270	28	5	Michigan
63	Cody Risien	T	6-7	280	29	7	Texas A&M
69	Dan Fike	G	6-7	280	25	2	Florida
70	Larry Williams	G	6-5	290	23	1	Notre Dame
72	Dave Puzzioli	NT	6-3	260	25	4	Pittsburgh
73	Paul Hanna	NT	6-3	255	26	1	Purdue
74	Paul Farren	T	6-5	280	25	4	Boston Univ.
75	Bill Contz	T-G	6-5	280	25	4	Penn State
77	Rickey Bolden	T-G	6-6	280	24	3	So. Methodist
78	Carl Hairston	DE	6-4	260	33	11	Md. (E. Shore)
79	Bob Golic	NT	6-2	270	28	7	Notre Dame
80	Terry Greer	WR	6-2	197	28	1	Alabama St.
81	Harry Holt	TE	6-4	240	28	4	Arizona
82	Ozzie Newsome	TE	6-2	232	30	9	Alabama
85	Clarence Weathers	WR-PR	5-9	170	24	4	Delaware St.
86	Brian Brennan	WR	5-9	178	24	3	Boston College
87	Travis Tucker	TE	6-3	240	22	2	So. Conn. St.
88	Reggie Langhorne	WR	6-2	195	23	2	Eliza. City St.
90	Ralph Malone	DE	6-5	225	22	R	Georgia Tech
91	Sam Clancy	DE	6-7	260	28	3	Pittsburgh
95	James White	DE	6-3	245	24	1	Louisiana St.
96	Reggie Camp	DE	6-4	280	25	4	California

HEAD COACH: Marty Schottenheimer

ASSISTANTS: Dave Adolph, Bill Cowher, Charlie Davis, Zindy Infante, Richard Mann, Howard Mudd, Tom Olivadotti, Joe Pendry, Tom Pratt, Dave Redding, Darvin Wallir.



Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	N. Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horn	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	27	5	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
92	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
93	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Lepra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.



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Special to the BEAR REPORT

CLEVELAND — A Bears-Browns Super Bowl at Pasadena next January? Mike Ditka wouldn't be surprised.

"They are the best team we've seen on film thus far. They remind me of us at this time last year," says Ditka.

The Bears' head coach isn't just blowing smoke when he says the Browns are a legitimate Super Bowl contender. Consider these facts: in 1985, the Browns had two 1,000-yard rushers in Earnest Byner and Kevin Mack; they had a young, rapidly-improving quarterback in Bernie Kosar who started 10 games; and they had one of the best defensive units in the league which allowed only 294 points and finished in the top 10 in total defense for the third consecutive season.

"We have one goal in 1986, and that's to win the Super Bowl. Anything less will not be satisfying," says Cleveland head coach Marty Schottenheimer. "We don't have intermediate goals. Making the playoffs or winning a certain number of games becomes unimportant if the last game you play in a season is a loss."

Continued Page 10



EDDIE JOHNSON



CURTIS WEATHERS



GREG ALLEN



MATT BAHR



QUARTERBACK BERNIE KOSAR



RUNNING BACK KEVIN MACK

Cleveland vs. Chicago Lineups

Bears Offense

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
 WR 82 Ken Margerum, 29 Dennis Gentry
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
 QB 9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller

Bears Defense

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 70 Henry Waechter
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 53 Dan Rains
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
 RC 48 Reggie Phillips, 24 Vestee Jackson
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Bears Specialists

PK 6 Kevin Butler
 P 8 Maury Buford
 PR 92 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
 KR 83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 PC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

Browns Offense

WR 80 Terry Greer, 85 Clarence Weathers
 LT 77 Rickey Bolden, 65 Bob Gruber
 LG 74 Paul Farren, 60 Jeff Wiska
 C 61 Mike Baab, 62 George Lilja
 RG 69 Dan Fike, 70 Larry Williams
 RT 63 Cody Risien, 75 Bill Contz
 TE 82 Ozzie Newsome, 81 Harry Holt
 WR 86 Brian Brennan, 88 Reggie Langhorne
 QB 19 Bernie Kosar, 10 Mike Pagel
 RB 44 Earnest Byner, 33 Curtis Dickey
 FB 34 Kevin Mach, 26 Greg Allen

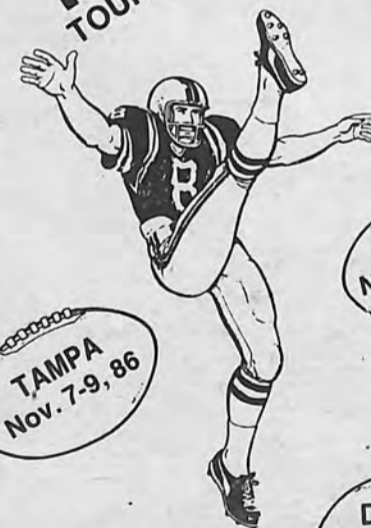
Browns Defense

LE 96 Reggie Camp, 95 James White
 NT 79 Bob Golic, 72 Dave Puzzuoli
 RE 78 Carl Hairston, 91 Sam Clancy
 LOLB 55 Curtis Weathers, 54 Joe Costello
 LILB 51 Eddie Johnson, 53 Anthony Griggs
 RILB 50 Tom Cousineau, 52 Nick Miller
 ROLB 57 Clay Matthews, 49 Vince Osby
 LCB 31 Frank Minnifield, 23 Mark Harper
 RCB 29 Hanford Dixon, 48 D.D. Hoggard
 SS 27 Al Gross, 4 King Simmons
 FS 37 Chris Rockins, 22 Felix Wright

Browns Specialists

P 7 Jeff Gossett
 K 9 Matt Bahr
 KO 9 Matt Bahr
 H 7 Jeff Gossett, 10 Mike Pagel
 PR 5 Webster Slaughter, 85 Clarence Weathers
 KR 84 Glen Young, 28 Herman Fontendt
 PC 58 Scott Nicolas, 62 George Lilja
 KC 58 Scott Nicolas, 62 George Lilja

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Five-Game Final

Bears Preseason Statistics

1986 Final Preseason

Bears 4-1

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE (Actual)										RUSHING		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
A 3 (LON)	Chicago 17, Dallas 6	82,699								W Payton	29	131	4.5	29	3	
A 9 (P)	Chicago 33, Pittsburgh 13	59,550								D Gentry	24	84	3.5	12	0	
A 16 (S)	Chicago 38, Indianapolis 21	66,030								S Fuller	9	80	8.9	16	0	
A 23 (S)	St. Louis 14, Chicago 7	66,030								C Thomas	18	68	3.8	17	0	
A 30 (ND)	Chicago 31, Buffalo 17	50,196								T Sanders	25	58	2.3	7	0	
									M Suhey	20	57	2.9	11	0		
									E Jones	10	43	4.3	9	0		
									M Tomczak	4	26	6.5	8	0		
									J Powell	5	24	4.8	14	0		
									N Anderson	6	17	2.8	4	0		
									McMahon/Finch	3/1	14/3	4.7/3.0	12/3	0/0		
									Teltschik/Perry	1/2	11/1	11.0/0.5	11/1	0/1		
									BEARS TOTAL	157	617	3.9	29	4		
									Opp. Total	143	530	3.7	26	2		
									RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD		
									M Suhey	10	99	9.9	21	0		
									D Gentry	9	129	14.3	43	1		
									T Sanders	8	134	16.8	61	1		
									Thomas/Mooreh'd	6/2	73/41	12.2/20.5	35/30	1/0		
									Gault/Donley	5/2	131/28	26.2/14.0	45/16	1/0		
									Wright'n/Basch	5/2	54/18	10.8/9.0	21/14	0/0		
									Dunsmore/Stracka	4/2	57/12	14.3/6.0	27/7	0/0		
									Margerum/Jones	3/1	54/11	18.0/11.0	24/11	1/1		
									Williams/McMich	3/1	49/7	16.3/7.0	32/7	1/0		
									Ortego/Bortz	3/1	25/3	8.3/3.0	12/3	1/0		
									Payton/Knapczyk	3/1	21/13	7.0/13.0	9/13	0/0		
									Barnes/Walton	2/1	60/2	30.0/2.0	55/2	1/0		
									BEARS TOTAL	74	1021	13.4	61	10		
									Opp. Total	83	1100	13.3	46	6		
									INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD		
									V Jackson	2	53	26.5	40	0		

Bears Can't Play Opponent's Level

The surprise in the Bears-Cardinals exhibition was not the often-replayed highlight of Cardinals beating up on Pat Dunsmore as though he were a raccoon they found in their icebox. The surprise was that so many fans were shocked and appalled.

What do they expect? They get into a fever pitch, exhorting their heroes to bash and mangle and otherwise deface another town's heroes. Sometimes it happens more literally than they had intended.

Football players enjoy pounding on people or they wouldn't be playing football in the first place. It's always more fun to pound on someone who can't pound back, as Dunsmore could not when he sat on the turf under a gang of Cardinals.

The mugging of Dunsmore crossed the fine line that always has existed between football and guerilla warfare. Certain acts of mayhem are considered acceptable.

It is OK, for example, when linemen bend each other's limbs like garden hoses. That's football. So is turning a receiver into a pinwheel when he crosses the middle, and flattening a quarterback from behind. Acceptable violence can be set to music.

GAME WAS OUT OF HAND

Kicking and punching a fallen player went too far. It was to acceptable violence as a forest fire is to a crackling fireplace. But violence, like fire, is not as easy to contain as, say, a boxful of cereal.

The mood was set long before Dunsmore was trampled in the vigilante Cardinal stampede that meant to bring justice to Keith Van Horne. Van Horne had bopped a Cardinal player who had kicked a Bear player. As long as Dunsmore was on the ground and defenseless, Cardinals Charlie Baker, Ottis Anderson and Earnest Gray amused themselves by kicking and punching him in the helmet and less protected areas.

Fights had sprung up like brushfires from the Cardinals' second offensive series. The Bears complained the Cardinals were a cheap team. Linebacker Wilber Marshall took an uncalled clip that could have been a career-ending shot, but it wasn't just the Cardinals.

Bear coach Mike Ditka pulled Marshall from the game for a play and later said it looked like he "came to fight instead of play football." Otis Wilson took a shot at tight end Doug Marsh that Ditka said was unprovoked. William Perry finished off a sack of Neil Lomax with the flourish of turning him upside down, throwing him to the ground and landing on him. Ditka said he apparently didn't do it maliciously, but that would have been of small consolation if Lomax had needed a steel collar.

tion if Lomax had needed a steel collar.

The lesson for the Bears was that they learned fighting is not a good way for a superior team to win a game. When football deteriorates to brawling, the better football team loses its edge. Since the Bears will be the better football team in virtually all their games this year, it's to their advantage not to let games turn into bouts.

And it will be to their opponents' advantage to test the Bears' patience. It worked for St. Louis, didn't it? The Cards won 14-7.

WINNING IS ALL THAT MATTERS

That's the only thing that is important to the Bears, as they set out to defend their championship. It doesn't mat-

By
Kevin
Lamb



ter if the Cardinals started all the fights. It doesn't matter that Cardinal coach Gene Stallings feared for his players' safety under the fans' barrage of paper cups and popcorn without openly objecting to Dunsmore's pummeling.

Fairness isn't the issue here. Winning is. And if the Bears are going to keep winning, they'll have to resist the temptation to be distracted from it by fighting. They'll surely be offered that temptation.

"It comes with the territory," Ditka said. "You're going to have people playing that way all the time. The main thing is to retain your poise and just play football, and people who play us that way should never beat us."

The Bears retained their poise at Green Bay last year. The Packers won the fights and the Bears won the game.

"We were a smarter team last year," Ditka said. "We just played hard, aggressive football. That's what we've got to get back to."

"You're going to get some cheap shots. The game's not perfect. Just take it, and the next time you get your shot at the guy, just hit him good, hard and clean."

There are plenty of acceptable ways to get even with a belligerent football player. One of them is not, as Van Horne did, to take a running start and slug the guy in the

MORALE BOOSTED BY TOUGHNESS

helmet in full view before the opponent's bench.

Even if it weren't a strategic advantage, inferior teams would have an incentive to test the Bears' patience by matching punches and kicks more than blocks and tackles. The Cardinals had a 5-11 season and a coaching change in the last year. They needed something to boost their morale, to establish their toughness. There would be no better opportunity than the game against the NFL champions.

Football players do not boost their morale by shouting snide comments at the other team. They do it by beating up the other team, especially if the other team has a locker room full of Super Bowl rings.

"We weren't going to be intimidated," said Cardinal cornerback Lionel Washington, who had ignited Van Horne's wrath.

"We were trying to establish ourselves. We wanted to be the hitters instead of the hittees," Anderson said.

Ditka understood. He and Stallings were assistants together on Dallas' coaching staff. When Ditka came to Chicago five years ago, he wanted to toughen up the Bears, too.

"There's nothing wrong with that," Ditka said. "That's the way I believe in coaching. He teaches them the same way I do — within the rules. But it got out of the rules, that's all, and coaches can't control that. Officials have to control it."

In a perfect world, the officials would have come down hard on the brushfire scuffles that scarred the first quarter. Maybe that would have avoided the mugging of Dunsmore two quarters later.

In the real world, these were part-time NFL officials. The league office maintains it grades these part-timers harshly, but the record says it passes them indiscriminately.

In the real world, players on a losing team don't always just stand up to the players on a winning team, try to beat them within the rules, take their inevitable loss manfully and shake hands afterward. They don't say, "Gosh darn it, you fellows sure play better than us, but we'll certainly strive to give you a better game next time."

OFFICIALS LET THINGS GO

Why should they? They know the officials will usually

Continued Next Page



THE BEARS can't play down to their opponents and get into fights, like the one against St. Louis this year, if they want to be successful. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Mauls

Continued From Page 11

let them get away with some elbows, forearms and fists where they don't belong. A good punch will make them feel better about losing, and it might even drag the better team down to their level.

Coaches don't usually mind. Oh, they don't work the words "cheap shot" or "late hit" into their pep talks. They

do it more the way Jack Pardee did, when rookie Doug Plank committed a spectacular roughness penalty for the miserable 1975 Bears. "Way to set the tone, Doug," Pardee said.

In a few weeks, the NFL office will issue a blizzard of fines. It will cost several Cardinals \$1,000 or so, which they'll consider the price of impressing a new coach two days before a cutdown.

"I want them like that. I want them tough," Stalling said. So does Ditka. But the Bears are good enough to confine their toughness to winning games.

Doug's Picks

BEARS by 15 over Browns
Chicago will come alive.

SAINTS by SEVEN over FALCONS
New Orleans will be respectable.

BENGALS by THREE over CHIEFS
Close in Kansas City.

VIKINGS by THREE over LIONS
Home field advantage.

PACKERS by TWO over OILERS
Houston will cool down.

COLTS by ONE over PATRIOTS
No Cinderella this year.

BRONCOS by FOUR over RAIDERS
Denver is strong.

RAMS by THREE over CARDINALS
St. Louis will start slow.

DOLPHINS by SIX over CHARGERS
Miami is tough again.

JETS by SEVEN over BILLS
Kelly can't do it all.

REDSKINS by THREE over EAGLES
Ryan isn't a savior.

SEAHAWKS by NINE over STEELERS
Nothing exciting in Pittsburgh.

49ERS by SEVEN over BUCCANEERS
Tampa Bay is still hapless.

GIANTS by TEN over COWBOYS
Dallas is through.

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Pre-Season Schedule

FINAL

Saturday, August 2

New England 21, St. Louis 16

Sunday, August 3

BEARS 17, Dallas 6

Tuesday, August 5

Houston 17, L.A. Rams 14

Wednesday, August 6

Atlanta 31, N.Y. Giants 24

Friday, August 8

Philadelphia 17, Detroit 9

Seattle 21, Indianapolis 14

Saturday, August 9

BEARS 33, Pittsburgh 13

Cleveland 19, Buffalo 17

Green Bay 38, N.Y. Jets 14

St. Louis 26, Tampa Bay 10

Kansas City 20, Cincinnati 10

Minnesota 30, Miami 16

New Orleans 10, Denver 7

San Diego 20, Dallas 0

Sunday, August 10

San Francisco 32, L.A. Raiders 0

New England 18, Washington 7

Friday, August 15

Cleveland 17, Miami 10

Washington 27, Pittsburgh 24, OT

Detroit 30, Seattle 27, OT

Saturday, August 16

BEARS 38, Indianapolis 21

Atlanta 20, Tampa Bay 17

New York Jets 28, Cincinnati 17

Minnesota 29, Denver 27

Kansas City 27, St. Louis 26

New England 38, New Orleans 34

New York Giants 22, Green Bay 14

Houston 23, Buffalo 20

Los Angeles Raiders 24, Dallas 19

San Diego 45, Philadelphia 38

Monday, August 18

Los Angeles Rams 31, San Francisco 17

Friday, August 22

Seattle 27, Minnesota 17

Los Angeles Raiders 24, New England 10

Pittsburgh 41, Dallas 28

Saturday, August 23

St. Louis 14, BEARS 7

Buffalo 41, Kansas City 28

Cleveland 27, Atlanta 21

Indianapolis 20, Detroit 13

Cincinnati 34, Green Bay 12

Miami 20, Philadelphia 15

Houston 24, New Orleans 13

New York Giants 20, New York Jets 16

Los Angeles Rams 20, San Diego 17 OT

Denver 14, San Francisco 9

Washington 21, Tampa Bay 13

Thursday, August 28

New York Jets 37, Philadelphia 30

Cleveland 25, Los Angeles Raiders 22

Friday, August 29

Miami 21, Tampa Bay 3

Washington 29, Atlanta 21

Detroit 30, Cincinnati 20

Denver 19, Los Angeles Rams 10

San Francisco 21, Seattle 10

San Diego 24, St. Louis 17

Saturday, August 30

BEARS 31, Buffalo 17

New York Giants 17, Pittsburgh 3

New England 16, Green Bay 9

New Orleans 13, Kansas City 10

Minnesota 23, Indianapolis 20

Houston 17, Dallas 14

Radio, TV Coverage

The Bears' regular season opener at Soldier Field against the Cleveland Browns will be televised live, beginning at noon on WMAQ, channel 5. Dick Enberg will handle the play-by-play with Merlin Olson doing the commentary.

On the radio, Wayne Larrivee, Jim Hart and Dick Butkus will call the action on WGN, 720 AM. WGN also will feed the game to its 42-station network representing eight states.

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Winning Season Opener Important In NFL

How important is winning the first regular season game?

Very.

Since the NFL went to a 16-game schedule in 1978, 46 of the 98 opening day winners eventually advanced to the playoffs. Only 24 of 98 opening day losers made it into the post-season. Twenty-nine of those opening day winners won their division titles. Just 13 opening day losers won division titles.

Mike Ditka is 2-2 in regular season openers. Cleveland coach Marty Schottenheimer is 0-1. Dallas' Tom Landry is 21-4-1, Raider coach Tom Flores is 6-1 and Charger coach Don Coryell is 10-2.

Surprisingly, the worst opening day records among ac-

NFL Notebook By Brian Hewitt

tive coaches are San Francisco's Bill Walsh (2-5) and Washington's Joe Gibbs (1-4)

•In the walk of the Bears brawl-filled, fight-packed mess of a football game against the Cardinals at Soldier Field, the question arose:

Will teams follow the Cardinals' lead and try to goad the Bears into distracting fights once the regular season begins?

"It's gonna be hard to do once the league season starts," said Bear coach Mike Ditka. "Once the officials get briefed on that last (Cardinal) game I think there'll be a lot of guys leaving the game early. It could be our guys, too, if we're the instigators."

Meanwhile, the Cardinals are still crowing about the debacle.

"That game gave us some respect and respect is what you need in this league," said first-year St. Louis head coach Gene Stallings. "We didn't back off. We weren't intimidated. The Bears can intimidate you pretty easily."

"I hope this shows the old (St. Louis) team is dead," said Cardinal linebacker E.J. Junior. "The team that went 5-11 last year no longer exists."

•Kansas City coach John Mackovic has dubbed 1986 "The Year of the Challenge." And for good reason.

He has 11 new starters in the lineup — six on offense, one on defense and a punter. Gone are 13 veterans that represented 107 starts in 1985. Those veterans have either been waived, traded, unsigned or placed on injured reserve. One of them, defensive end Mike Bell, is in jail for drug-related charges.

"We are all aware of it (the team's problems)," Mackovic said. "But I don't think it should be our cross to bear. It's there. We should accept it for what it is. Win or else. But I will not allow this team to feel a win-at-all-cost attitude."

•Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent has caught a pass in 123 straight regular season games. If he catches at least one in each of the Seahawks first five games this year, he will break Harold Carmichael's NFL record of 127 games. Seattle's fifth game is against porous San Diego on a Monday night.

•Two years ago the 49ers won Super Bowl XIX in a convincing fashion. Last year they suffered injuries and lost to the Giants in the NFC wild card game.

This year doesn't look much better. Quarterback Joe Montana is hobbling on a bad ankle and hasn't played since the exhibition opener. Coach Bill Walsh probably will have to start two rookies — third-rounder Tim McKyer and sixth-rounder Don Griffin — at cornerback.

And starting left tackle Bubba Paris had a horrendous preseason. Paris reported to camp overweight and collected six holding penalties in one two-game stretch. "He probably should have held six times," said offensive line coach Bob McKittrick after one of the games. "Then he wouldn't have allowed as many sacks."

•Second-year Bear Mike Tomczak wasn't the only free agent quarterback to make waves during the preseason. Seattle's Sean Salisbury has made a serious run at regular Dave Krieg.

"I guarantee you I didn't throw any parties that day," USC's Salisbury said of last April 30 when no team drafted him. "To think you're going to be drafted and then you're not, well, it's a miserable feeling. I told my parents that day that I wasn't sure I wanted to play football any more. Maybe it was time to do other things."

But he threw four touchdown passes in the Seahawks first three exhibition games. And the next thing Krieg knew, fans were booing him when he stepped on the field.

Bear fans haven't started booing Jim McMahon. Yet.



WALTER PAYTON follows the block of William Perry into the end zone in the second quarter against the Bills to tie the game at 14. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

•This on former Bear assistant Buddy Ryan (now head coach of the Eagles) in Playboy Magazine: "The Eagles... could be one of the most improved franchises in the league. Ryan is both a lover and an ass kicker."

•This on William "The Refrigerator" Perry from the 1986 Clemson football media guide:

"Now an international celebrity, William Perry is without a doubt the most famous Clemson alum on earth. Sorry, Strom Thurmond, but have you seen those McDonald's commercials... If he continues to score, catch or pass for touchdowns with the Bears, we might have to hire a student just to handle William Perry phone calls."

Perry's younger brother, Michael Dean Perry, is a 6-2, 255-pound junior at Clemson. The Tigers are hoping he can recover from last year's ankle injury to return as one of the team's best defensive linemen.

•Cowboy defensive back Bill Bates, comparing Herschel Walker and Marcus Allen, both of whom he faced in college: "Herschel has been given some great ability. In the first game as a freshman, he came out in the third quarter with power. He broke a good run and kind of flattened me, and then ran over three guys at the same time on our

goal line. I broke down on Herschel and he ran over me.

"On the same type of play, I went and broke down on Marcus after he got past the line of scrimmage, and he tried to jump over me."

"So you have two different types of runners there. One who is going to try and run you over, and one who is going to run over you or around you. Fortunately, when Marcus tried to hurdle me, I caught his back leg."

•On the day of the Bills-Chiefs preseason game, the week before Buffalo played the Bears, quarterback Jim Kelly was ordered onto the playing field for a 7 a.m. conditioning workout.

"They must think all of us USFLers are out of shape," Kelly said. "I don't often see 7 a.m. At least not that way."

NOTES AND QUOTES: The Cowboys have a 333-pound guard named Nathaniel "The Kitchen" Newton... Bear running back Walter Payton needs 662 combined yards to become the first player in NFL history to reach 20,000 yards via rushing, receiving and returns... Payton has 109 career touchdowns. He needs five more to pass Lenny Moore in third position with 113. Jim Brown's NFL record is 126.

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NOTRE DAME

Continued From Page 3

process.

After two running plays and a penalty on the Bears McMahon flipped a screen pass to Thomas for four yards, bringing the ball to the Bills' 28-yard line. Then on third and seven pass interference was called against the Bills on a pass intended for Keith Ortego in the end zone, giving the Bears a first and goal situation from the one.

With 1:52 left in the half Payton dove into the end zone on the next play to tie the score at 14.

Then for the second time this preseason the special team for the Bears came up with the ball on its own kick-off. Kevin Butler kicked off for the Bears and the ball landed at the 12-yard line with no one from the Bills catching it. Shaun Gayle pounced on the live ball and the Bears had the ball back at Buffalo's 15-yard line.

After McMahon completed a pass to Tim Wrightman for seven yards, he hit a wide open Thomas at the four-yard line. Thomas then waltzed into the end zone untouched to give Chicago its first lead of the game with 1:03 left in the half.

Kelly brought the Bills to Chicago's 25-yard line with five seconds left, but a 42-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Tyrone Keys to end the half.

Buffalo's quarterbacks connected on eight of 12 passes in the half for 127 yards. And the Bills' ground game gained 82 yards in the half.

But that didn't worry the Bears' William Perry. "We just played a straight defense," Perry said. "If they couldn't run the ball against that, they can't play."

Mike Tomczak started the second half at quarterback for Chicago and moved the Bears to Buffalo's four-yard line on the half's opening drive. The big play on the drive came on first and 10 from the Buffalo 44-yard line when Tomczak threw incomplete deep to Willie Gault. The Bills were penalized on the play for pass interference, giving the Bears the ball at the four.

After Tomczak threw an incomplete pass and Buffalo was called for holding to move the ball to the two-yard line, Perry entered the game to do his specialty.

Perry got the call on the next play but fumbled the ball and the Bills recovered.

"It's just one of those things. You don't even worry about it," Perry said.

The teams traded punts before Buffalo got a drive going midway through the quarter. Kelly scrambled twice on the drive for big yardage before the Bills were stopped at the Chicago eight-yard line.

Then a 25-yard field goal by the Bills brought them to within four points at 21-17.

After Buffalo missed a field goal attempt with just un-

der four minutes left in the game, the Bears moved from their own 25-yard line to the Bills' 28 on a screen pass to Emery Moorehead and a 32-yard pass from Tomczak to David Williams.

Butler then converted a 46-yard field goal attempt to give the Bears a 24-17 lead with 1:42 left.

Ditka saw a lot of room for improvement after the game. "It's an understatement to say that we didn't move the ball," he said. "It was an old-fashioned butt whipping. We need to stop reading the clippings and play football. We have to have a running game."

Even when asked after the game to comment on some good individual performances in the game, Ditka said, "I can't get excited, gang. If you want me to get excited about somebody I can't."

But after watching the game films, the Cleveland Browns may be excited about playing the Bears in the opening game of the regular season on Sunday at Soldier Field.

GAME NOTES: Going into Saturday's game, the Bills' defense had not allowed a touchdown pass in the preseason. . . The Bills were the Bears' opponent in the preseason finale for the third straight year. . . The Bears have never lost to the Bills in the preseason, winning seven of eight meetings with one tie. The Bears have won two of three regular season meetings. . . Both Bears coach Mike Ditka and Bills coach Hank Bullough have roots in Pennsylvania. Ditka was born in Carnegie and Bullough is a native of Scranton. . . The game at Notre Dame was a benefit for the 1987 International Summer Special Olympics, which will be held at Notre Dame and St. Mary's College in South Bend. . . Safety Dave Duerson and guard Tom Thayer of the Bears both graduated from Notre Dame in 1982. Duerson was an Irish tri-captain his senior year and was the

Predictions

Continued From Page 7

AFC EAST

1. Dolphins — An improved defense does wonders (12-4).
2. Patriots — No Cinderella season this year (10-6).
3. Jets — As usual, they are overrated (10-6).
4. Bills — Kelly will get them some wins (6-10).
5. Colts — Dull team in a dull town (4-12).

AFC CENTRAL

1. Browns — No contest in this division (10-6).
2. Steelers — The glory days are history (8-8).
3. Oilers — Finally getting better (7-9).
4. Bengals — Not enough to challenge (6-10).

AFC WEST

1. Broncos — Elway will have a great year (12-4).
2. Raiders — They still need a quarterback (10-6).
3. Seahawks — Knox always has them competitive (10-6).
4. Chargers — Coryell is in big trouble (7-9).
5. Chiefs — This team is dying to get out of the cellar (7-9).

team's MVP. Thayer, who was Duerson's roommate at Notre Dame when they were sophomores, won four letters while playing tackle, guard and center. Also, the Bears' running back coach, Johnny Roland, was an assistant coach under Dan Devine at Notre Dame in 1975. . . The Bills' investment in quarterback Jim Kelly is paying off immediately. The Bills have sold 33,000 tickets for the season opener with the Jets on Sept. 7 and picked up nearly 4,000 season tickets in just over a week since Kelly signed on Aug. 18.

Cuts

Continued From Page 3

as he should have. It might be the thing he needs. He might go somewhere and come back and give us a hard time. He may need this to know that he's in the big leagues and has to go out there every day hard."

After learning he was cut Williams only said, "I guess they weren't pleased. That's the bottom line. Things basically didn't work out."

Ditka said the talent was there, but he couldn't pick up things fast enough.

"As far as talent is concerned, he can catch the ball and run the routes, when he knows which ones to run," he said. "He's made two of the better catches that have been made all year."

"I think he just had a hard time picking up things that we were doing early. We moved him from one side to the other, and back, and that didn't help him. But I'm sure he'll have another opportunity."

Ditka also had to take into consideration who he would have to juggle around to keep one of the other players.

"Douglass was a good football player," Ditka said. "But he was a guy that we really would have had to change things to keep. He's played well and hasn't done anything to be cut. But right now he can't be more valuable to us than the other guys."

Being a starter on this year's squad doesn't mean a player will be on the field all the time. With all the talent on the team Ditka plans to substitute freely.

"We're going to play a lot of people this year and do a lot of alternating," he said. "We don't expect to get anyone's feelings hurt. Because if they are, they might not be around."



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TYRONE KEYS (98) blocked a field goal attempt by Buffalo's Scott Norwood during Keys' last game as a Bear Saturday before he was cut. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Bear Report Letters

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Bears Should Score As A Team

Dear Doug:

I keep hearing how bad it was for Walter Payton not being allowed to get a touchdown in the Super Bowl. I realize there was a third and goal situation from the one-yard line with the score 37-3, and Williams Perry was handed the ball. There were probably other opportunities as well.

What's the big deal? So Perry gets the touchdown. What do these people want next? A hundred yards I imagine. And after that? Most yards in a Super Bowl game, I'm sure.

In fact, why don't we go back to being the old Bears — Walter swing left, Walter swing right, and Walter up the middle. What about "team"? What about scoring and winning? On the play I referred to, the announcers and everybody and their brother — not to mention the Patriot defense — knew who would get the ball. Let's score, let's score decisively, and let's continue to win — as a team.

Tod P. Nelson
Chicago

Can't Live Without Bear Report

Dear Editor:

This is my eighth year of subscribing to the Bear Report. Like all Bear fans who subscribe I certainly can't live without it. I want to thank you for the beautiful poster.

The Bear Report, as we all know, continues to have mailing problems. Most of it probably is the blame of the post office. Late

mail has become quite expected, but they always do show up. Only once in eight years has an issue failed to show up at all.

That was until the second issue of this year didn't show. The third issue just arrived today, but the second is not here.

I just wanted to let you know about this problem. The Bears will repeat as Super Bowl champs. No question we are one of the all-time best teams in the history of the NFL. With Bell and Harris and the rest of our beloved Monsters all back and barking, how are we going to lose?

Rick Conti
Medford, MS

Editor's note: I wish we could get the issues out to you faster, but there's not much we can do. We'll straighten out the problem about your second issue. In the meantime, all I can recommend is to buy first-class delivery. I admit it's expensive, but if you're really getting frustrated it may be worth it. Thanks for your patience.

Concerned With Defense

Dear Editor:

It's great to be getting a Bear Report in the mail on a weekly basis once again. I just want to share a few thoughts (for what they're worth) in this, my first letter of the new season.

I had the privilege of watching the Bears practice at Platteville on two occasions, was at Soldier Field for the game against the Colts, and of course, watched the Dallas and St. Louis games on television. Our Bears look tough this year, and I think we stand a great chance of repeating as Super Bowl champions. I'm disappointed, however, that my dream of a totally undefeated season, including preseason, went down the drain with the loss to St. Louis.

The offense looks super. I predict that Willie Gault will have by far his best year yet. The Bears have even more offensive weapons than they did last season.

Watch out for Gentry. We'll see a lot of him this year, as well we should. Tomczak looks incredible. I wasn't that impressed with him last year, but I reminded myself that he rarely got on the field, and when he did, the coaches sent in running plays. With all due respect to Steve Fuller, Tomczak has earned the right to be McMahon's primary backup. Nonetheless, Jim seems to work magic with the offense, and we need him badly. Hope he's healthy soon.

The defense is my concern this year. I've compared film of last year's playoff contests with this year's games, and have reached the conclusion that John Madden reached on national TV. The Bears must return to the 46 defense. If pride and fear of being associated with Ryan is what is keeping them from using it, then

they need to remember the Scriptural admonition that "pride goes before a fall." If the coaching staff really thinks the present system is better, then I really feel sorry for them. They need to let the defense return to the 46 for just one game, with Singletary calling all the defensive plays. That should show them the difference. Without the 46, a trip to Pasadena in January may not be as easy as some think.

I hope they let the Fridge throw the ball for a touchdown this season. I can't think of a better time to do it than the Monday night game against the Packers on national TV. It's so much fun to humiliate the Pack.

Closing on a humorous note, my dear wife is trying to become a football fan. She was with me on one of the Platteville trips. When she spotted number nine coming out of the locker room, she pointed and said, "Look, there's Ed McMahon."

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JIM McMAHON calls a play from the line of scrimmage Saturday during the Bears' final exhibition game of the year. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



WILLIAM PERRY grabs the facemask of Bills' running back Robb Riddick during a tackle in first quarter action Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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